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SERBIA'S VLASINA-VRLA HYDROELECTRIC POWER PROJECT

The Vlasina-Vrla hydroelectric power system will be the largest source of power in Serbia. It consists of four power plants /see appended sketch/ constructed side by side from the artificial Vlasinsko Jezero (Lake), which is 1,200 meters above sea level, to Vladicin Han on the Juzna (Southern) Morava River. The power plants, which are situated at relatively close intervals, will exploit water falls totalling 870 meters and will produce more power than all the prewar Serbian power plants.

The power plants have been under construction for 3 years; from 2,000 to 5,000 workers of the "Hidrogradnja" Enterprise have been working on the project.

The large dam on the Vlasina River, which has already been completed, is 150 meters wide at the base and over 30 meters high. It will create a new artificial lake on the Vlasina River Basin, with a capacity of 200 million cubic meters of water. This lake will make it possible for all four power plants to operate regardless of rainy or dry seasons.

The power plant system was projected by Professor Engineer Vujica Jevdjevic, Engineeer Milan Vercon, and Engineer Bogdan Rajcevic.

At the other end of the artificial lake, a long canal has been constructed through which the water will flow into the "Okruglica" Tunnel, which is 1,700 meters long. Another tunnel will carry the water into the turbines of the first power plant, which will exploit a 300-meter waterfall and will have a capacity of 54,000 horsepower.

Through another tunnel, which is under construction, the water will flow into the reservoir of the second power plant, into which the Vrla River also will be diverted. A 6,600-meter tunnel, which is under construction near Surdulica, will carry the water into the third power plant. On the entire 40-kilometer construction site, three smaller dams for reservoirs, 20 kilometers of granite water tunnels, and several tens of kilometers of canals are being built.

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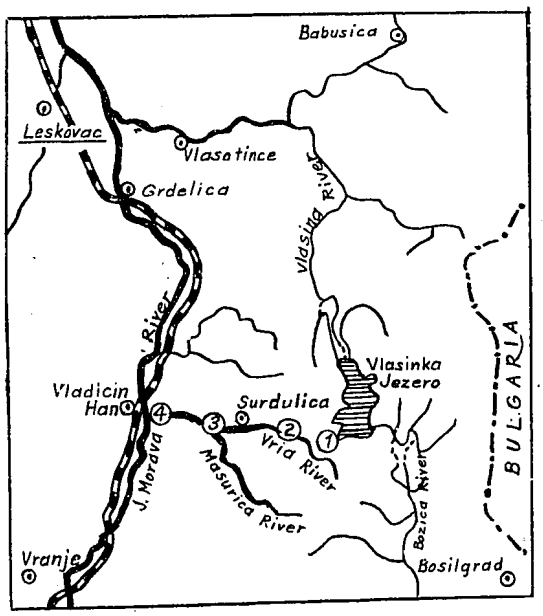
The Bozica River will also be made to flow via a special tunnel into Vlasinsko Jezero. At present it flows into the Black Sea via the Struma River.

The Vrla I and Vrla II power plants will be completed in 1951. This year, an 18-kilometer cableway for the transportation of gravel has been constructed from the shores of the Juzna Morava to the two power plants.

[Appended sketch follows.]



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